

MEW

METROPOLITAN. *n. f.* [*metropolitanus*, Latin.] A bishop of the mother church; an archbishop.

He was promoted to Canterbury upon the death of Dr. Bancroft, that metropolitan, who understood the church excellently, and countenanced men of the greatest parts in learning. *Clarendon.*

METROPOLITAN. *adj.* Belonging to a metropolis.

Their patriarch, of a covetous desire to enrich himself, had forborn to institute metropolitan bishops. *Raleigh.*

METROPOLITICAL. *adj.* [from *metropolis*.] Chief or principal of cities.

He fearing the power of the Christians was gone as far as Gratia, the metropolitical city of Stiria. *Kneller.*

METTLE. *n. f.* [corrupted from *metel*, but commonly written so when the metaphorical sense is used.]

1. Spirit; spiritiness; courage.

What a blunt fellow is this grown to be?

He was quick *mettle* when he went to school. *Shakespeare.*

I had rather go with fir priest than fir knight: I care not who knows of my *mettle*. *Shakespeare. Twelfth Night.*

Upon this heaviness of the king's forces, interpreted to be fear and want of *mettle*, divers resorted to the feditious.

Hayward's Edw. VI.

He had given so frequent testimony of signal courage in several actions, that his *mettle* was never suspected. *Clarendon.*

'Tis more to guide than spur the mule's steed,

Refrain his fury, than provoke his speed;

The winged courier, like a gen'rous horse,

Shows most true *mettle* when you check his course. *Pope.*

2. Substance: this at least should be *metel*.

Oh thou! whole self-fame *mettle*,

Whereof thy proud child, arrogant man, is puffed,

Engenders the black toad, and adder blue. *Shakespeare.*

METTLED. *adj.* [from *mettle*.] Spiritely; courageous; full of ardour; full of fire.

Such a light and *mettled* dance

Saw you never. *Benj. Johnson.*

Nor would you find it easy to compose

The *mettled* floods, when from their nostrils flows

The scorching fire that in their entrails glows. *Addison.*

METTLESOME. *adj.* [from *mettle*.] Spiritely; lively; gay; brisk; airy; fiery; courageous.

Their force differs from true spirit, as much as a vicious from a *mettlesome* horse.

METTLESOMELY. *adv.* [from *mettlesome*.] With spiriteliness.

MEW. *n. f.* [*mue*, French.]

1. A cage; an inclosure; a place where any thing is confined.

Forth-coming from her darksome *meu*,

Where the all day did hide her hated hew. *Fairy Queen.*

There then she does transform to monstrous hues,

And horribly mis-shapes with ugly fights,

Captiv'd eternally in iron *meus*,

And darksome dens, where Titan his face never shows. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*

Her lofty hand would of itself refuse

To touch the dainty needle or nice thread;

She hated chambers, closets, secret *meus*,

And in broad fields preserv'd her maidenhead. *Fairfax.*

2. [Map, Saxon.] A sea-fowl.

Among the first sort we reckon coots, fanderlings, and *meuvers*. *Carver.*

The vessel sticks, and shews her open'd side,

And on her shatter'd mast the *meu* in triumph ride. *Dryden.*

TO MEW. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To shut up; to confine; to imprison; to inclose.

He in dark corners *mew'd*,

Mutter'd of matters as their books them shew'd. *Hubbard.*

Unto the bush her eye did sudden glance,

In which vain Braggadocio was *mew'd*,

And saw it stir. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*

Why should your fears, which, as they say, attend

The steps of wrong, then move you to *mew* up

Your tender kinsman. *Shakespeare. King John.*

Fair Hermia, question your desires;

Know of your youth, examine well your blood,

Whether if you yield not to your father's choice,

You can endure the livery of a nun;

For aye to be in shady cloister *mew'd*,

To live a barren sister all your life,

Chanting faint hymns to the cold, fruitless moon. *Shakespeare.*

More pity that the eagle should be *mew'd*,

While kites and buzzards prey at liberty. *Shakespeare.*

Feign them sick,

Closet *mew'd* in their sedans, for fear of air. *Dryden's Juu.*

It is not possible to keep a young gentleman from vice by a total ignorance of it, unless you will all his life *mew* him up in a closet, and never let him go into company. *Locke.*

2. To shed the feathers. It is, I believe, used in this sense, because birds are, by close confinement, brought to shed their feathers.

I should discourse of hawks, and then treat of their *ayries*, *mewings*, culling, and renovation of their feathers. *Walton.*

MIC

The sun hath *mew'd* his beams from off his lamp,

And majesty defac'd the royal stamp. *Clarendon.*

Nine times the moon had *mew'd* her horns, at length

With travel weary, unsupplied with strength,

And with the burden of her womb oppress'd,

Sabean fields afford her needful rest. *Dryden.*

3. [*Miauler*, French.] To cry as a cat.

Let Hercules himself do what he may,

The cat will *mew*, the dog will have his day. *Shakespeare.*

They are not improveable beyond their own genius: a dog will never learn to *mew*, nor a cat to bark. *Grew's Conf.*

TO MEWL. *v. n.* [*miauler*, French.] To squall as a child.

The infant

Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms. *Shakespeare.*

MEZERON. *n. f.* A species of spurge laurel.

Mezeron is common in our gardens, and on the Alps and Pyrenean mountains: every part of this shrub is acid and pungent, and inflames the mouth and throat. *Hill.*

MEZZOTINTO. *n. f.* [Italian.] A kind of graving, so named as nearly resembling paint, the word importing half-painted: it is done by beating the whole into asperity with a hammer, and then rubbing it down with a stone to the resemblance intended.

MEYNT. *adv.* Mingled. Obsolete.

The salt Medway, that trickling streams

Adown the dales of Kent,

Till with the elder brother Thames

His brackish waves be *meint*. *Spenser's Pastorals.*

MISASM. *n. f.* [from *misas*, iniquo, to infect.] Such particles or atoms as are supposed to arise from disordered, putrefying, or poisonous bodies, and to affect people at a distance.

The plague is a malignant fever, caused through pestilential *misas* insinuating into the humoral and constituent parts of the body. *Harvey on Conjunctions.*

MICE. the plural of *mouse*.

Mice that mar the land. *Sam. vi. 5.*

MICHAELMAS. *n. f.* [*Michael* and *masi*.] The feast of the archangel *Michael*, celebrated on the twenty-ninth of September.

They compounded to furnish ten oxen after *Michaelmas* for thirty pounds price. *Carver.*

TO MICHE. *v. n.* To be secret or covered; to lie hid.

Marry this is *micheing* malice; it means mischief. *Shakespeare.*

MICHER. *n. f.* [from *miche*.] A lazy loiterer, who skulks about in corners and by-places, and keeps out of fight; a hedge-creeper. *Hammer.*

Miche or *Mick* is still retained in the cant language for an indolent, lazy fellow.

How tenderly her tender hands between

In ivory cage she did the *miche* bind. *Sidney.*

Shall the blessed fun of heav'n prove a *miche*, and eat blackberries? a question not to be asked. Shall the son of England prove a thief, and take purses? a question to be asked. *Shakespeare's Henry IV, p. i.*

MICKLE. *adj.* [mcel, Saxon.] Much; great. Obsolete. In Scotland it is pronounced *mickle*.

This reade is rife that oftentime

Great cumbers fall unsoft:

In humble dales is footing fast,

The trode is not so tickle,

And though one fall through heedless haste,

Yet is his mis not *mickle*. *Spenser's Pastorals.*

Many a little makes a *mickle*. *Camden's Remains.*

If I to-day die with Frenchmen's rage,

To-morrow I shall die with *mickle* age. *Shakespeare. Henry VI.*

O, *mickle* is the pow'rful grace, that lies

In plants, herbs, stones, and their true qualities. *Shakespeare.*

All this tract that fronts the falling sun,

A noble peer, of *mickle* trust and power,

Has in his charge. *Milton.*

MICROCOSM. *n. f.* [*micro* and *cosmos*.] The little world.

Man is so called as being imagined, by some fanciful philosophers, to have in him something analogous to the four elements.

You see this in the map of my *microcosm*. *Shakespeare. Coriolanus.*

She to whom this world must itself refer,

As suburbs, or the *microcosm* of her;

She, she is dead; she's dead, when thou know'st this,

Thou know'st how lame a creature this world is. *Donne.*

As in this our *microcosm*, the heart

Heat, spirit, motions gives to every part:

So Rome's victorious influence did disperse

All her own virtues through the universe. *Denham.*

Philosophers say, that man is a *microcosm*, or little world, resembling in miniature every part of the great; and the body natural may be compared to the body politic. *Swift.*

MICROGRAPHY. *n. f.* [*micro* and *graphein*.] The description of the parts of such very small objects as are discernible only with a microscope.

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MID

The honey-bag is the stomach, which they always fill to satisfy and to spare, vomiting up the greater part of the honey to be kept against winter: a curious description and figure of the sting in Mr. Hook's *micrography*. *Grew's Museum.*

MICROSCOPE. *n. f.* [*micro* and *scopia*; *microscope*, Fr.] An optick instrument, contrived various ways to give to the eye a large appearance of many objects which could not otherwise be seen.

If the eye were so acute as to rival the finest *microscopes*, and to discern the smallest hair upon the leg of a gnat, it would be a curse, and not a blessing, to us; it would make all things appear rugged and deformed; the most finely polished crystal would be uneven and rough; the sight of our own selves would affright us; the smoothest skin would be beset all over with ragged scales and bristly hairs. *Bentley.*

The critick eye, that *microscope* of wit,

Sees hairs and pores, examines bit by bit. *Dunciad, b. iv.*

MICROMETER. *n. f.* [*micro* and *metron*; *micrometre*, French.] An instrument contrived to measure small spaces.

MICROSCOPICAL. *n. f.* [from *microscope*.]

MICROSCOPICK. *n. f.* [from *microscope*.]

1. Made by a microscope.

Make *microscopical* observations of the figure and bulk of the constituent parts of all fluids. *Arbutnot and Pope.*

2. Affixed by a microscope.

Evading even the *microscopical* eye!

Full mature swarms with life. *Thomson's Summer.*

3. Resembling a microscope.

Why has not man a *microscopical* eye?

For this plain reason, Man is not a fly.

Say what the use, were finer optics given,

'T inspect a mite, not comprehend the heav'n? *Pope.*

MID. *adj.* [contracted from *middle*, or derived from *mid*, Dutch.]

1. Middle; equally between two extremes.

No more the mounting larks, while Daphne sings,

Shall, sitting in *mid* air, suspend their wings. *Pope.*

Ere the *mid* hour of night, from tent to tent,

Unweary'd, through th' num'rous host he past. *Rowe.*

2. It is much used in composition.

MID-COURSE. *n. f.* [*mid* and *course*.] Middle of the way.

Why in the East

Darkness ere day's *mid-course*? and morning light,

More orient in yon western cloud, that draws

O'er the blue firmament a radiant white. *Milton.*

MID-DAY. *n. f.* [*mid* and *day*.] Noon; meridian.

Who shoots at the *mid-day* sun, though he be sure he shall never hit the mark, yet as sure he is he shall shoot higher than he who aims but at a bush. *Sidney, b. ii.*

His sparkling eyes, replete with awful fire,

More dazzled and drove back his enemies,

Than *mid-day* sun fierce bent against their faces. *Shakespeare.*

Who have before, or shall write after thee,

Their works, though toughly labour'd, will be

Like infancy or age to man's firm stay,

Or early or late twilights to *mid-day*. *Donne.*

Did he not lead you through the *mid-day* sun,

And clouds of dust? Did not his temples glow

In the same fultry winds and scorching heats?

Yet the stout fairy 'mongst the *middest* crowd,

Thought all their glory vain in knightly view. *Fa. Qu.*

MIDDELE. *adj.* [moele, Saxon.]

1. Equally distant from the two extremes.

The lowest virtues draw praise from the common people; the middle virtues work in them astonishment; but of the highest virtues they have no sense. *Bacon's Essays.*

A middle station of life, within reach of those conveniences which the lower orders of mankind must necessarily want, and yet without embarrassment of greatness. *Rogers.*

To deliver all his fleet to the Romans, except ten *middle-sized* brigantines. *Arbutnot on Coins.*

I like people of *middle* understanding and middle rank. *Sto.*

2. Intermediate; intervening.

Will, seeking good, finds many *middle* ends. *Davies.*

3. Middle finger; the long finger.

You first introduce the *middle* finger of the left-hand. *Sharp.*

MIDDLE. *n. f.*

1. Part equally distant from two extremities; the part remote from the verge.

There come people down by the *middle* of the land. *Judge.*

With roof so low that under it

They never stand, but lie or sit;

And yet so foul, that who is in,

Is to the *middle* leg in prison. *Hudibras, p. i.*

2. The time that passes, or events that happen, between the beginning and end.

The causes and designs of an action are the beginning; the effects of these causes, and the difficulties that are met with in the execution of these designs, are the *middle*; and the unravelling and resolution of these difficulties are the end. *Dryden and Lee's Oedipus.*

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MID

MIDDLE-AGED. *adj.* [*middle* and *age*.] Placed about the middle of life.

A *middle-aged* man, that was half grey, half brown, took a fancy to marry two wives. *L'Estrange's Fables.*

The *middle-aged* support fasting the best, because of the oily parts abounding in the blood. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

I found you a very young man, and left you a *middle-aged* one: you knew me a *middle-aged* man, and now I am an old one. *Swift to Pope.*

MIDDLEMOST. *adj.* [from *middle*.] Being in the middle.

Why have not some beafts more than four feet, suppose six, and the *middlemost* shorter than the rest. *More.*

The outmost fringe vanished first, and the *middlemost* next, and the innermost last. *Newton's Opticks.*

The outward stars, with their systems of planets, must necessarily have descended toward the *middlemost* system of the universe, whither all would be most strongly attracted from all parts of a finite space. *Bentley's Ser*